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For immediate release

For more information, contact: Kim Engel, Director, 308-760-2415, [kengel@pphd.org](mailto:kengel@pphd.org)

**Scotts Bluff County reports third COVID-19 related death in the Panhandle  
Nine more cases announced; Panhandle total: 243, Active: 88, Recovered: 152, Deaths: 3**

The third COVID-19 related death in the Panhandle has been reported in Scotts Bluff County. A female in her 90s with underlying health conditions has passed away.

“We offer our sincerest sympathy to her family. Increased precautions remain critical against this virus, especially to protect our most vulnerable in the community,” said Paulette Schnell, Director of Scotts Bluff County Health Department.

The Panhandle, along with most other Nebraska counties, has moved towards decreased restrictions in phase three of the Governor’s Directed Health Measure beginning today, June 22. Guidance documents are available at <http://pphd.org/COVID-19.html>. Public health urges all Panhandle residents to continue the following:

- Stay at least six feet away from others. Close contact and exposure are considered less than six feet for 15 minutes or more. Social distancing is one of the best prevention strategies we have against this virus.
- Wear a mask when social distancing is not possible and when in public spaces or areas.
- Frequent handwashing or sanitizing is critical.
- Monitor your symptoms and immediately call your doctor, clinic, or our 24/7 line at 308-262-5764 before going anywhere if you are experiencing any of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, body chills, headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Please use extra caution if you are over 60 or have any underlying health conditions.

COVID-19 testing is available at Community Action Health Center: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7am-8am. Testing is open to those that are symptomatic or close contact to a positive case. Sign up today <https://tinyurl.com/y7msahzq>.

Unified Command confirms nine more cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle:

County	Demographics	Exposure Type
Cheyenne	Female in her 50s	Unknown
Dawes	Female in her 40s	Community Spread
Dawes	Male in his 50s	Community Spread

<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Female in her teens	Close Contact
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Female in her 20s	Community Spread
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Female in her 20s	Community Spread
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Female 80 and older	Close Contact
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Male in his teens	Community Spread
<b>Scotts Bluff</b>	Male in his 60s	Close Contact

Ten cases from Scotts Bluff County have been deemed recovered bringing the total recoveries to 152.

**March 2-June 22, 2020**

**Total Tests Conducted: 4,879**

**Positive: 243**

**Cumulative Positivity Rate: 4.9%**

**Recovered: 152**

**Active Cases: 88**

**Active Hospitalizations: 6**

**Total Cumulative Hospitalizations: 28**

**Deaths: 3**

- **Banner County: 1 case (recovered)**
- **Box Butte County: 3 cases (recovered)**
- **Cheyenne County: 15 cases (4 active, 11 recovered)**
- **Dawes County: 4 cases (3 active, 1 recovered)**
- **Garden County: 4 cases (recovered)**
- **Kimball County: 10 cases (recovered)**
- **Morrill County: 14 cases (4 active, 10 recovered)**
- **Scotts Bluff County: 191 Cases (76 active, 112 recovered, 3 deaths)**
- **Sioux County: 1 case (active)**

Panhandle Public Health District, Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Management, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department are working as a unified command on this evolving situation. Essential updates will be regularly communicated to the public and community partners.

For the most up to date information from the CDC, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, learn, work, and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community. Visit our website [www.pphd.org](http://www.pphd.org).